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20 February 1996

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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Statement submitted by the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA), Italian Centre of Solidarity, Socialist International Women (SIW), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International Inner Wheel and International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling (IRTAC), non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

Violence against women and the peace process

1. The non-governmental organizations listed above, concerned about the violations of human rights and the status of women in areas of armed conflict, in particular in the area of former Yugoslavia, welcome the denunciation of systematic rape and forced pregnancy and other acts of violence committed against women and children as a war crime in all relevant documents of the

* E/CN.6/1996/1.

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thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women with the Platform for Action as well as in the Regional Platform for Action of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) (E/CN.6/1995/5/Add.4) and the report of the Vienna Non-Governmental Organizations Forum.

2. We also take note of the appeals in the above-mentioned documentation to immediately stop such criminal acts and human rights violations and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators of such crimes.

3. In order to ensure the success of all attempts to bring peace to the area of conflict and to help all victims to cope with the traumatic experiences, we urge the Commission to insist that Government fulfil their obligations under the international human rights instruments and the Dayton agreement:

(a) To support the United Nations Ad Hoc War Crimes Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in identifying, placing on trial and punishing all persons found guilty of war crimes committed against women and children;

(b) To ensure that women of diverse backgrounds are appointed to the tribunal;

(c) To facilitate the training of all persons engaged in investigating and judging gender-specific crimes;

(d) To set aside funds for counselling victims of gender-specific crimes.

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* * *

Full participation of women in power structure and decision-making

Consistent with the adoption of the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Platform of Action, the non-governmental organizations listed above,

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1. Request Governments to commit themselves to establishing the goal of gender balance in all governmental delegations to international conferences, meetings, expert group meetings and fact-finding missions;

2. Also request the inclusion of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the governmental delegations to the above-mentioned meetings.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Statement submitted by International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; Italian Centre of Solidarity, Socialist International Women (SIW), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International Inner Wheel and International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling (IRTAC), non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

We, the undersigned international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,

1. Acknowledge the progress made through the momentum of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and await with interest the outcome of the Commission's deliberations at its fortieth session;

* E/CN.6/1996/1.

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3. Expect that a follow-up or review conference will be agreed upon to discuss in detail the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;

4. Call for the elimination of stereotyping women's image in the mass media and the alleviation of inequality of women's access to and participation in all communications systems, as stated in the Regional Platform for Action of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/CN.6/1995/5/Add.4);

4. Urge Governments to take effective measures, including appropriate legislation against pornography and the projection of violence as well as discriminating and humiliating messages against women and children now present in the electronic media, in books, videos, television and magazines.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Statement submitted by International Federation of Business and and Professional Women, Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; International Council on Alcohol and Addictions (ICAA), Socialist International Women (SIW), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II; and International Inner Wheel and International Round Table for the Advancement of Counselling (IRTAC), non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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The above-mentioned organizations express their concern that in periods of recession, when structural unemployment is increasing, women are specially affected.

We are alarmed that in the year of eradication of poverty, women are disproportionately victimized by the economic recession.

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* E/CN.6/1996/1.

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We demand that gender-sensitive measures be taken in order to minimize the negative effects of adjustment programmes on women. Adequate vocational training, counselling and retraining shall be provided by Governments and international institutions.

We expect innovative solutions for creation of new jobs, in particular for women.

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Statement submitted by International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I; and All India Women's Conference, Arab Lawyers Union, World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW) and World Federation for Mental Health, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

* * *

1. At this important fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the above-mentioned organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, call the attention of the Commission to the fact that 1996 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the coming into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the above organizations, therefore, support the timely drafting of an optional protocol to the Convention at this session of the Commission, which has been so supportive, as an appropriate mechanism to strengthen the Convention and to give further voice to women, as they seek redress against discrimination.

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2. As part of the outreach of the Working Group on Equality of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, our organizations have also committed themselves to working together through our affiliates at the local level to:

(a) Make the Convention more widely known;

(b) Achieve universal ratification and implementation of the Convention without reservations. We believe reservations often negate the value of the Convention itself; and the value of the years of work spent in the formulation of the Convention, in which the Commission participated so effectively.

3. Every effort is being made to secure wider support for this action.